



SOCCER

A competitive ball game played by two teams of 11 players on a rectangular field with a goal at either ends. The object of the game is to put the ball into the opponent's goal. In general play, the goalkeepers are the only players allowed to touch the ball with their hands or arms, while the field players typically use their feet to kick the ball into position, occasionally using their torso or head to intercept a ball in midair. The team that scores the most goals by the end of the match wins. If the score is tied at the end of the game, either a draw is declared or the game goes into extra time and/or a penalty shootout, depending on the format of the competition.

Scoring:

- Each goal is worth one point, the team with the greater number of goals at the end of the game wins, if the score is tied this is a draw, some ties are played out to determine a winner.

Rules of play/Key terms:

- The game is started by a coin toss to determine possession of the ball and field end. A kick off (the team kicking off shall play the ball from a stationary position on the center spot into the opponent's half of the field) on the referee's whistle starts the game.
- The game consists of two halves; with field ends changed before the second half.
- A goal is scored when the whole ball has crossed the goal line under the crossbar and between the goal posts, providing the attacking team has not infringed the rules.
- Playing the ball – except for a throw in, a player other than a goalkeeper is not allowed to play the ball with his hands and arms; a goalkeeper may play the ball with his hands and arms only when inside his own penalty area. All other players are permitted to use any other part of the body in order to stop, control or pass the ball, move with it, or score.
- A **throw in** is taken along the touchline at the point where the ball went out of play. It is awarded against the team that last touched the ball before it went out of play.
- A **goal kick** is awarded to the defending team when the ball crosses its goal line (and not in the goal) after having been last touched by an opponent. Any player may take the kick, the ball is placed within the half of the goal area nearer the point it went out of play, and kicked out of the penalty area.
- A **corner kick** is awarded to the attacking team if the ball crosses the goal line (and not in the goal), having been last touched by one of the defending team. The kick is taken from the corner circle nearest where the ball went out of play; opponents must remain 10yds away until the kick has been taken. A goal can be scored directly from a corner kick.
- An opponent awards a **free kick** to a team for an offense. A free kick is usually taken at the spot where the offense occurred.
- A **penalty kick** is awarded to the opposing team when a defending player within his own penalty area commits an offense. A penalty kick is taken from the penalty mark; all players except the kicker and the goalkeeper must stand outside the penalty area. While the goalkeeper stands on the goal line the player may take one kick to try a score a goal.
- **Offside**- when an offensive player, or attacking player, is passed the ball and there are not at least two opponents between him or her and the goal line. Usually, these are the goalkeeper and one other defender, but not necessarily

Origin: Soccer known around the world as football has many roots; Chinese, Greeks and Romans. However, it is the British Empire that gets most of the credit and the British Military that introduced it to many cultures.

Governing Body: [United States Soccer Federation](#)

Field of Play: 100 yards X 120 yards **High School:** 65 yards X 110 yards

